Active Duty Spouses and Active Duty Members: Spouse Employment, Satisfaction, Financial Health, Relationships, & Deployments

Results from 2015 Survey of Active Duty Spouses & 2013-2014 Status of Forces Surveys of Active Duty Members

Malikah Dorvil & Kimberly Williams
Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)
Defense Research, Surveys, and Statistics Center (RSSC)

July 2016

BRIEFING OVERVIEW

Slide

✓ Introduction 3
- Spouse Employment 6
- Overall Satisfaction and Support 12
- Financial Health 17
- Personal Relationships 22
- Impact of Deployments 27
- Summary of Results 38

RSSC Mission and Surveys

- **Design, conduct, and analyze Joint-Service surveys for Office of the Under-Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)**
  - Provide Department of Defense with accurate assessments of attitudes/opinions of entire DoD community to:
    - Evaluate existing programs/policies
    - Establish baseline measures before implementing new programs/policies
    - Monitor progress of programs/policies and their effects on the Total Force

- **Standard RSSC surveys include Spouse Surveys and Status of Forces Surveys (SOFS)**
  - Spouse surveys alternate each year for spouses of AD members and spouses of Guard and Reserve members
  - Annual SOFS to active duty (AD), Guard, and Reserve members
  - Content includes recurring items, rotating topics, and hot-button items with policy office input

Data and Methodology

Survey	Field Period	Method	Sample Size	Weighted Response Rate
2015 Survey of Active Duty Spouses (ADSS)	Dec 2014–May 2015	Web & Paper	45,000	24%
2013 & 2014 Status of Forces Survey of Active Duty Members (SOFS-A)	Oct–Dec 2013/ Sep–Nov 2014	Web	70,000/ 65,000	25%/ 21%

- **select a sample representing the military and spouse populations based on combinations of demographic characteristics**
  - Demographic groups with lower response rates are oversampled
- **Data are weighted using an industry standard process to produce survey estimates representative of their respective populations; results can be generalized to full military and spouse populations**

BRIEFING OVERVIEW

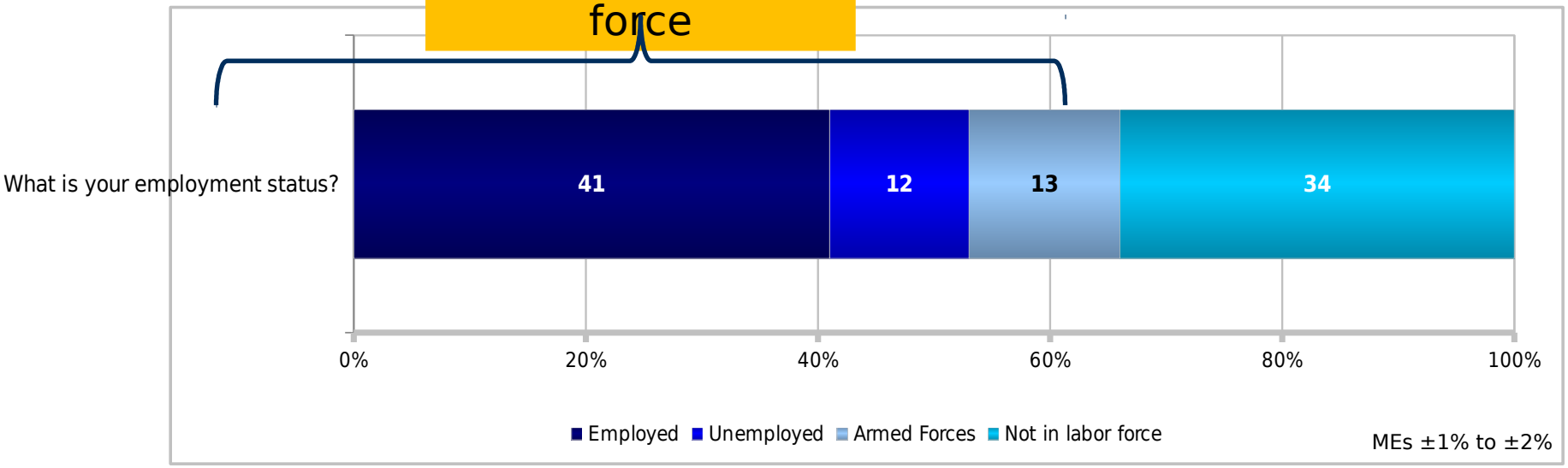
Slide

- Introduction 3
- ✓ Spouse Employment 6
- Overall Satisfaction and Support 12
- Financial Health 17
- Personal Relationships 22
- Impact of Deployments 27
- Summary of Results 38

Employment Status

Percent of All Active Duty Spouses

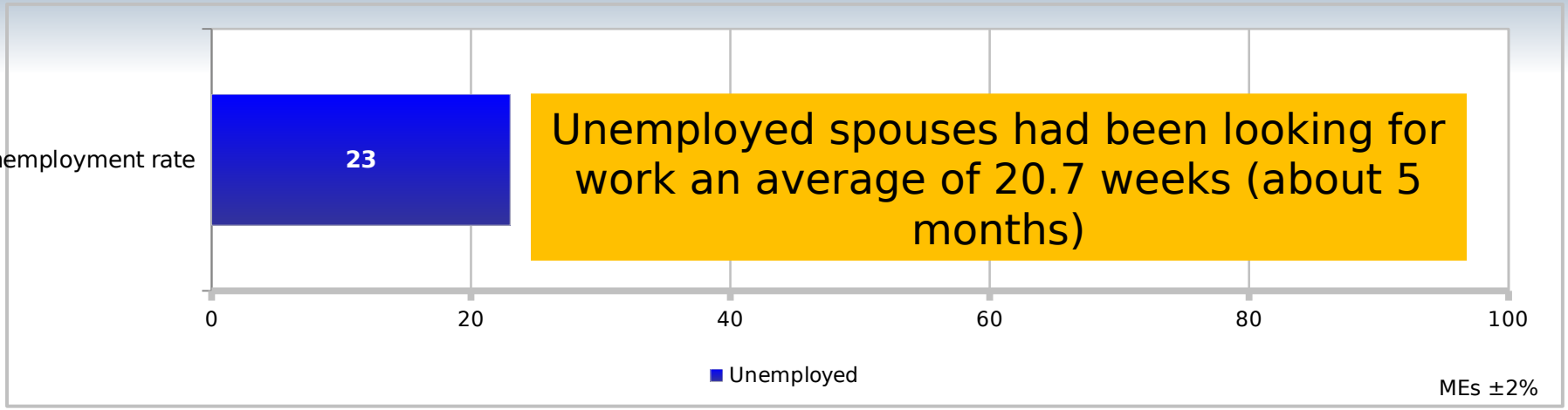
66% of spouses were in the labor force



ADSS 2015 Q22-Q24 and Q26

Unemployment Rate

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Who Are in the Labor Force



Note: The Unemployment rate excludes spouses of warrant officers and dual military spouses.

Higher response* of *Unemployed* in 2015 – Army (28%); E1-E4 (30%); Minority (30%); Less Than 26 Years Old (29%); PCS in Past 12 Months (37%); No College (38%); Some College/Vocational Diploma (26%)

Unemployed

Most recent HIGHER th / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2010 (MFLP)	2012	2015
Total	14	17	26	25	23
Army	16	20	29	28	28
Navy	12	14	25	23	19
Marine Corps	13	19	28	29	23
Air Force	13	13	21	20	19

MEs±1% to ±4%

Unemployed

Most recent HIGHER t / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2010 (MFLP)	2012	2015
Total	14	17	26	25	23
E1-E4	18	26	37	33	30
E5-E9	12	14	24	23	22
O1-O3	10	16	21	23	17
O4-O6	12	10	17	14	18

MEs ±1% to ±4%

MFLP – Military Family Life Project

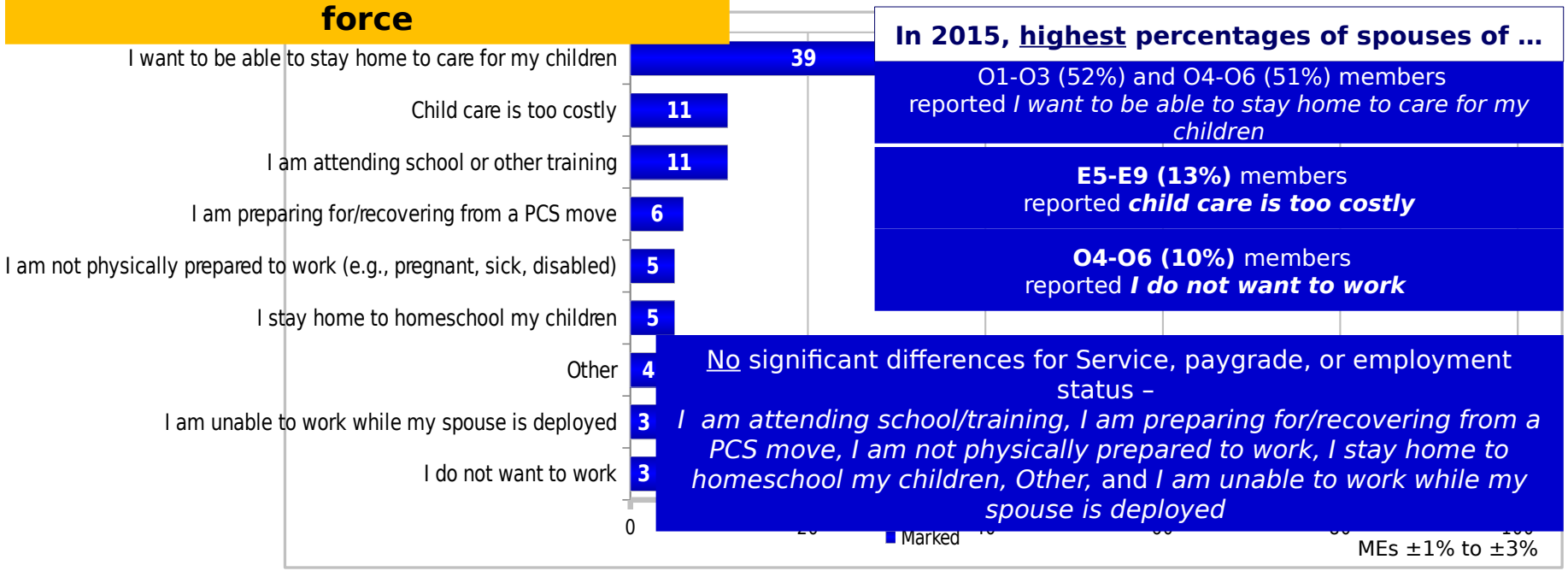
ADSS 2015 Q22-Q24 and Q26

* Throughout briefing, only statistically significant findings are reported. Statistical tests are used to compare current estimates with previous results based on unrounded estimates.

Main Reason for Not Looking for Work

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Who Are Not in the Labor Force and Who Selected at Least One Reason for Not Looking for Work

34% of spouses were not in the labor force


I want to be able to stay home to care for my children
39
Child care is too costly
11
I am attending school or other training
11
I am preparing for/recovering from a PCS move
6
I am not physically prepared to work (e.g., pregnant, sick, disabled)
5
I stay home to homeschool my children
5
Other
4
I am unable to work while my spouse is deployed
3
I do not want to work
3
0
Marked
MEs ±1% to ±3%

In 2015, highest percentages of spouses of …

O1-O3 (52%) and O4-O6 (51%) members reported *I want to be able to stay home to care for my children*

E5-E9 (13%) members reported ***child care is too costly***

O4-O6 (10%) members reported ***I do not want to work***

No significant differences for Service, paygrade, or employment status – *I am attending school/training, I am preparing for/recovering from a PCS move, I am not physically prepared to work, I stay home to homeschool my children, Other,* and *I am unable to work while my spouse is deployed*

Note: Other reasons include VISA/work permit, don't speak English very well, volunteer responsibilities, waiting for start date on a new job, spouse works long hours/shift work, extended family visits overseas, and transportation problems.

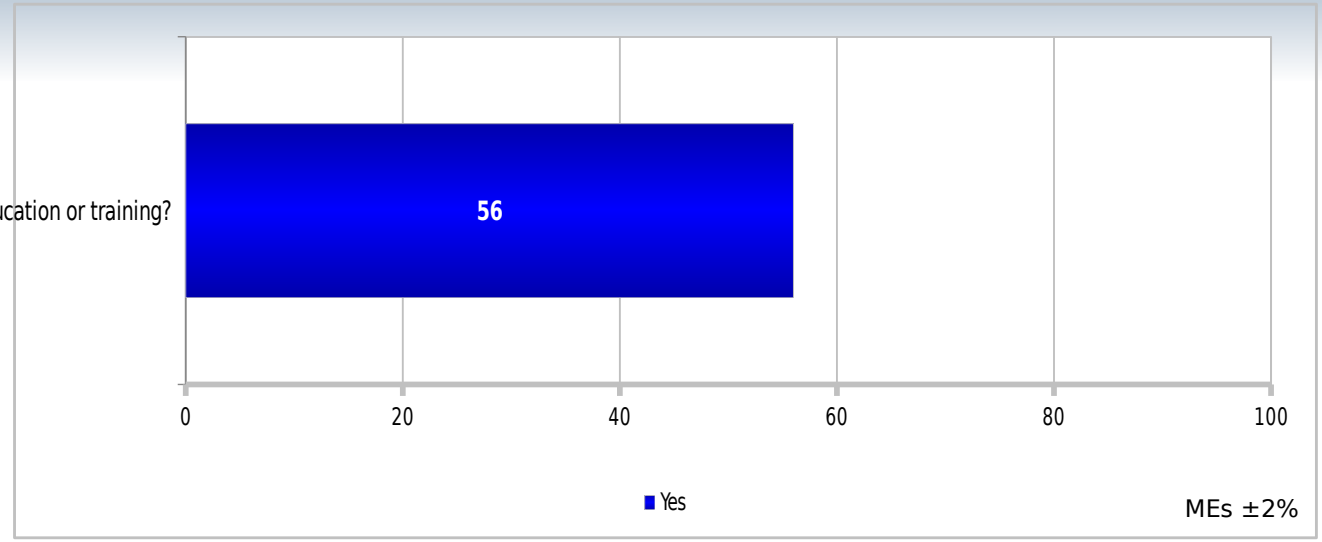
Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
I want to be able to stay home to care for my children	40	39
Child care is too costly	12	11
I am attending school or other training	11	11
I am preparing for/recovering from a PCS move	5	6
I am not physically prepared to work (e.g., pregnant, sick, disabled)	6	5
I stay home to homeschool my children	3	5
I am unable to work while my spouse is deployed	2	3
I do not want to work	4	3

MEs ±1% to ±16%

ADSS 2015 Q28

Percent Employed Within Area of Education or Training

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Who Are Employed or Currently Serving in the Military



In 2015, highest percentages of O1-O3 spouses (66%) and O4-O6 spouses (68%), Dual Military spouses (62%), and spouses with Graduate/Professional degrees (75%) reported that they are currently employed within the area of their education or training

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	57	56
Army	55	53
Navy	59	59
Marine Corps	52	51
Air Force	59	59

MEs ±2% to ±5%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	57	56
E1-E4	44	44
E5-E9	58	57
O1-O3	65	66
O4-O6	72	68

MEs ±2% to ±5%

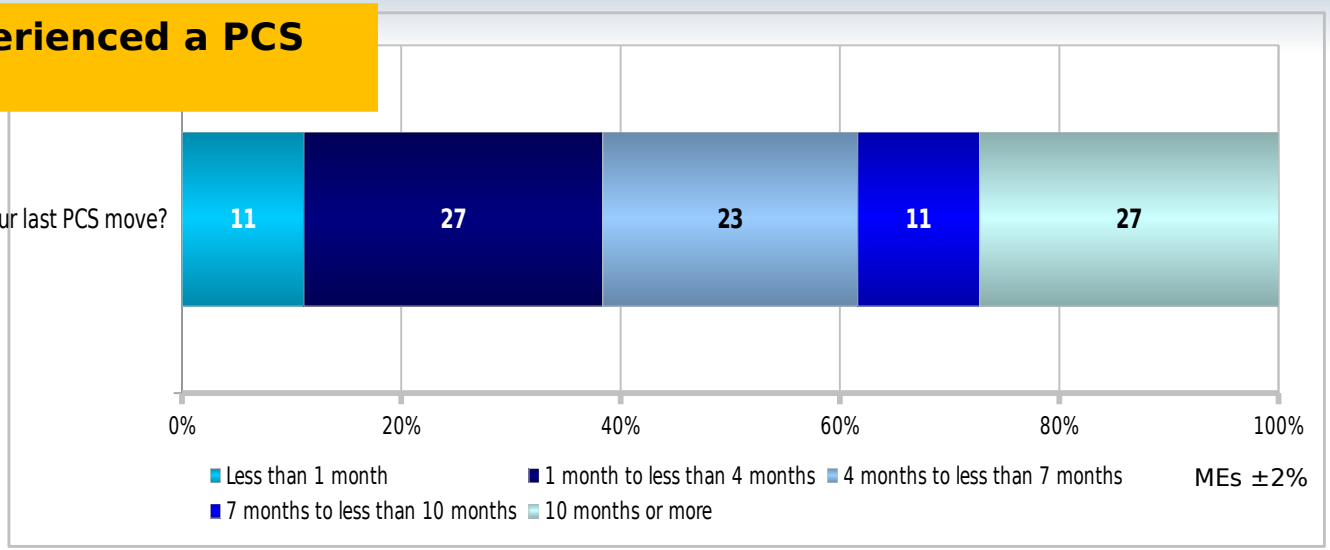
No significant differences between 2012 and 2015

ADSS 2015 Q37

Time Taken To Find Employment After Last Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Move

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Who Experienced a PCS Move

79% of spouses experienced a PCS move



Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Less than 1 month	14	11
1 month to less than 4 months	27	27
4 months to less than 7 months	21	23
7 months to less than 10 months	9	11
10 months or more	28	27

MEs ±1% to ±2%

In 2015, higher responses for…

Less than 1 month **– Navy (15%); O1-O3 (16%); Employed (13%)**

1 month to less than 4 months **– Employed (30%)**

10 months or more **– Unemployed (47%)**

In 2015, no significant differences for Service, paygrade, or employment status –
4 months to less than 7 months **and** ***7 months to less than 10 months***

ADSS 2015 Q48

BRIEFING OVERVIEW

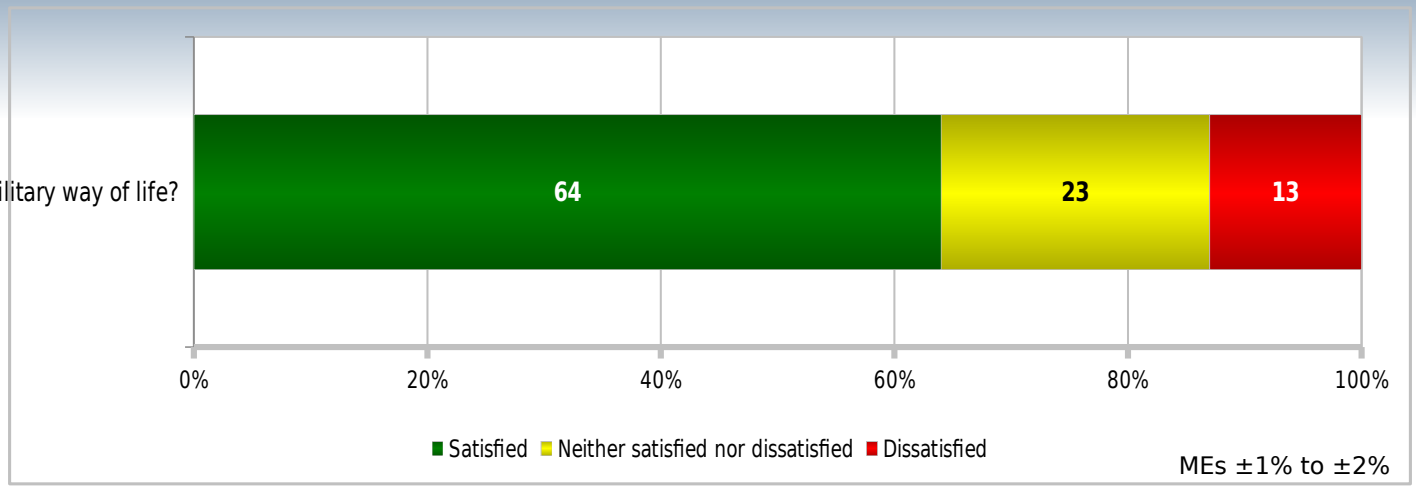
Slide

- Introduction 3
- Spouse Employment 6
- ✓ Overall Satisfaction and Support 12
- Financial Health 17
- Personal Relationships 22
- Impact of Deployments 27
- Summary of Results 38

Satisfaction With Military Way of Life

Percent of All Active Duty Spouses

Overall, how satisfied are you with the military way of life?



MEs ±1% to ±2%

Satisfied

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	60	56	64	64
Army	55	50	61	62
Navy	57	56	62	64
Marine Corps	59	59	63	60
Air Force	68	64	72	68

MEs ±1% to ±4%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	60	56	64	64
E1-E4	45	45	55	53
E5-E9	61	56	66	65
O1-O3	65	63	65	67
O4-O6	78	77	78	76

MEs ±1% to ±4%

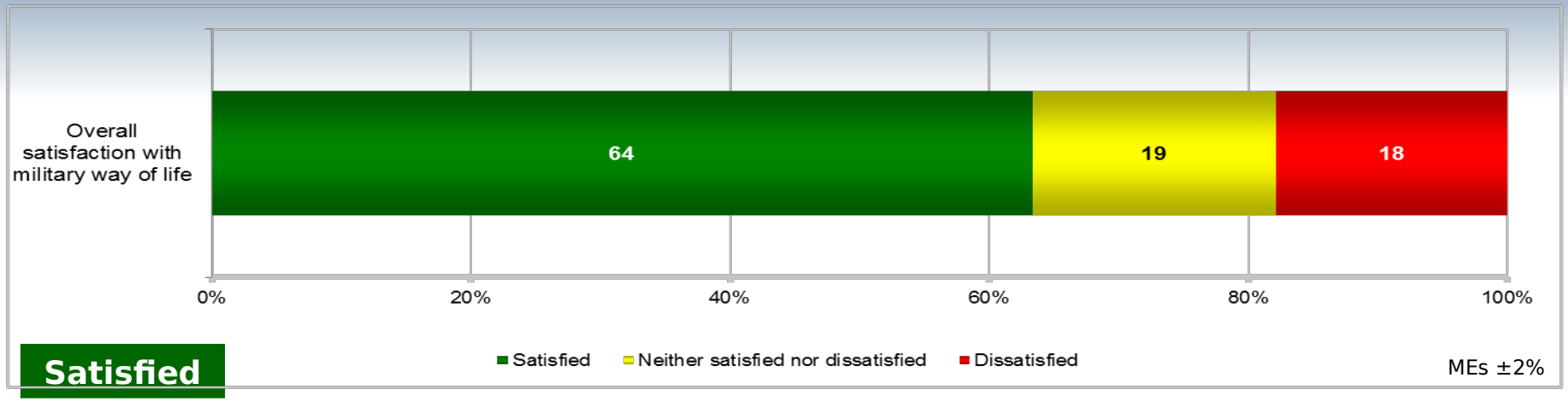
Highest percentages of Air Force (68%), E5-E9 (65%), O1-O3 (67%), and O4-O6 (76%) spouses reported being *satisfied* in 2015

In 2015, highest percentages of E1-E4 (17%) spouses reported being *dissatisfied*

ADSS 2015 Q89

Satisfaction With Military Way of Life

Percent of All Active Duty Members



Satisfied

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Jul 02	Mar 03	Jul 03	Nov 03	Apr 04	Aug 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Aug 05	Dec 05	Apr 06	Aug 06	Dec 06	Apr 07	Aug 07	Dec 07	Apr 08	Aug 08	Nov 08	Apr 09	Aug 09	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	Jun 12	2013	2014
Total	61	67	62	63	62	61	62	63	61	63	62	62	61	61	62	63	62	63	64	66	65	66	66	66	66	66	65	64
Army	59	62	57	56	58	56	54	57	55	58	61	58	58	55	57	58	57	59	59	63	62	63	62	64	64	64	63	62
Navy	61	69	61	63	62	61	66	62	60	64	60	60	61	61	62	62	63	64	64	65	64	66	66	67	67	67	64	62
Marine Corps	54	61	57	59	57	55	57	60	59	58	59	57	56	57	59	63	60	59	63	60	60	60	60	61	59	60	57	58
Air Force	68	74	72	71	71	71	72	72	72	70	68	73	67	70	69	71	71	72	74	75	74	75	75	72	73	72	71	71

MEs ±1% to ±5%, except Dec 2004 (±3% to ±6%)

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Jul 02	Mar 03	Jul 03	Nov 03	Apr 04	Aug 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Aug 05	Dec 05	Apr 06	Aug 06	Dec 06	Apr 07	Aug 07	Dec 07	Apr 08	Aug 08	Nov 08	Apr 09	Aug 09	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	Jun 12	2013	2014
Total	61	67	62	63	62	61	62	63	61	63	62	62	61	61	62	63	62	63	64	66	65	66	66	66	66	66	65	64
E1-E4	46	53	46	48	48	46	49	48	47	48	46	49	45	47	49	51	51	50	52	55	53	54	54	55	54	55	53	54
E5-E9	68	74	70	70	69	69	70	70	68	70	70	68	68	67	68	68	67	69	71	71	72	72	71	72	72	71	69	68
O1-O3	74	75	75	73	76	72	71	74	72	74	74	69	70	68	68	71	72	71	69	75	74	76	75	74	73	74	73	70
O4-O6	85	87	84	86	83	86	77	87	82	84	85	83	83	82	84	86	82	83	83	85	85	87	87	85	85	85	84	82

MEs ±1% to ±3%, except Dec 2004 (±3% to ±9%)

Highest percentages of Air Force members reported being *satisfied* (71%) in 2014 vs. other Services

In 2014, highest percentages of Marine Corps members reported being *dissatisfied* (24%).

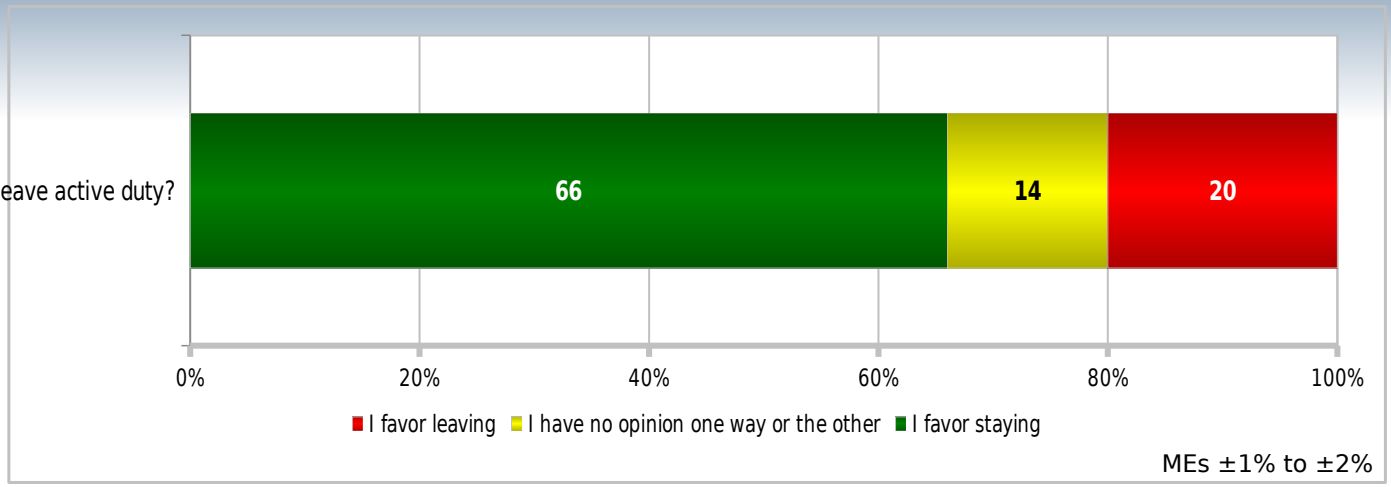
Among Enlisted members, Marine Corps (26%) and Navy (21%) were most

SOFS-A 2014 Q25

Support To Stay on Active Duty

Percent of All Active Duty Spouses

Do you think your spouse should stay on or leave active duty?



MEs ±1% to ±2%

Favor staying

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	61	59	68	66
Army	56	54	65	65
Navy	62	60	68	68
Marine Corps	60	60	67	62
Air Force	66	63	74	68

MEs ±1% to ±4%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	61	59	68	66
E1-E4	50	52	59	56
E5-E9	64	62	73	70
O1-O3	64	57	65	64
O4-O6	65	64	71	70

MEs ±1% to ±3%

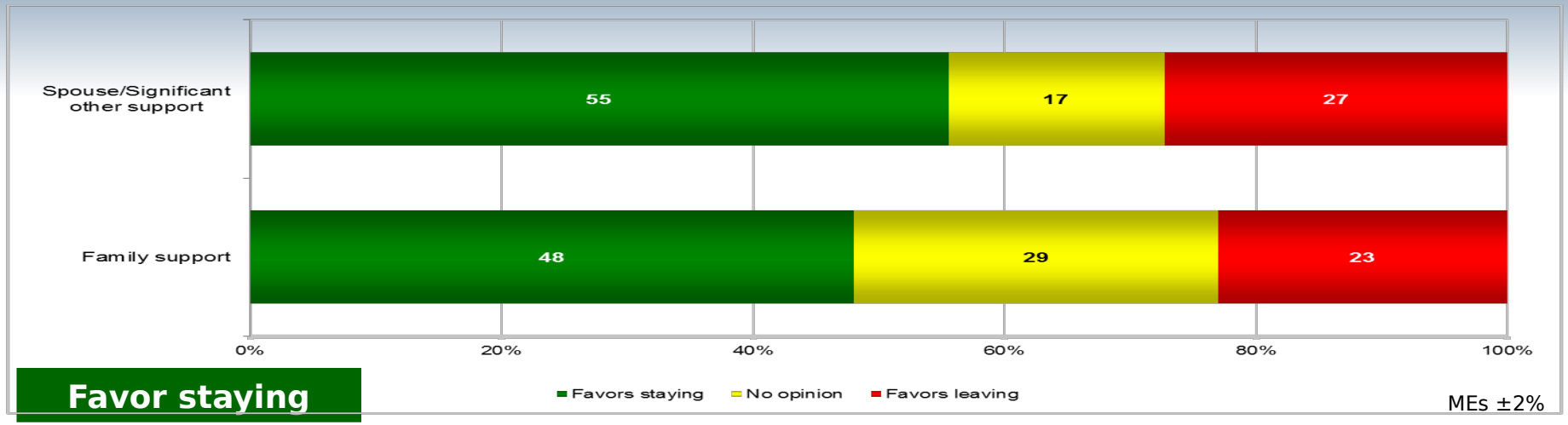
In 2015, highest percentages of E5-E9 (70%) and O4-O6 (70%) spouses favor their husband/wife *staying* on active duty

In 2015, highest percentages of spouses of E1-E4 (26%) and O1-O3 (24%) members favor their husband/wife *leaving* active duty

ADSS 2015 Q90

Support To Stay on Active Duty

Percent of Applicable Active Duty Members



Favor staying

MEs ±2%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Jul 02	Mar 03	Jul 03	Nov 03	Apr 04	Aug 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Aug 05	Dec 05	Apr 06	Aug 06	Dec 06	Apr 07	Aug 07	Dec 07	Apr 08	Aug 08	Nov 08	Apr 09	Aug 09	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	Jun 12	2013	2014
Total	52	46	48	48	46	48	48	46	46	47	46	47	46	45	45	46	46	47	50	53	53	54	53	56	57	56	57	55
Army	52	43	45	42	41	44	40	40	40	41	41	40	41	39	40	42	40	43	46	49	50	51	48	54	58	55	59	57
Navy	52	46	49	51	47	50	51	50	49	51	48	52	49	47	48	48	48	48	52	54	54	56	57	58	57	58	54	53
Marine Corps	44	42	43	43	41	42	40	39	43	41	41	40	39	40	41	42	44	43	45	48	47	45	50	49	50	49	50	49
Air Force	56	50	54	53	53	53	59	54	53	54	53	57	53	53	52	54	54	55	57	59	58	61	61	61	61	60	61	57

MEs ±2% to ±5%, except Dec 2004 (±3% to ±6%)

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Jul 02	Mar 03	Jul 03	Nov 03	Apr 04	Aug 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Aug 05	Dec 05	Apr 06	Aug 06	Dec 06	Apr 07	Aug 07	Dec 07	Apr 08	Aug 08	Nov 08	Apr 09	Aug 09	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	Jun 12	2013	2014
Total	52	46	48	48	46	48	48	46	46	47	46	47	46	45	45	46	46	47	50	53	53	54	53	56	57	56	57	55
E1-E4	35	30	33	33	32	33	36	30	32	34	30	32	32	32	33	34	35	33	38	40	42	41	40	43	47	45	44	44
E5-E9	61	55	57	54	53	55	55	55	53	54	54	55	53	51	52	52	51	53	56	59	59	61	60	64	63	63	63	61
O1-O3	57	47	53	52	51	51	51	50	51	50	50	47	49	45	46	47	47	50	48	57	54	54	55	55	54	57	59	53
O4-O6	67	60	58	62	58	61	53	60	57	58	61	59	61	57	57	60	58	59	62	63	63	64	65	64	66	66	64	64

MEs ±2% to ±4%, except Dec 2004 (±3% to ±11%)

In 2014, Marine Corps members had least amount of support to *stay* from spouse/SO (49%) and

Highest percentages of junior Enlisted members' spouses/SOs reported in 2014 they favor them *leaving* (32%)

SOFS-A 2014 Q28, Q29

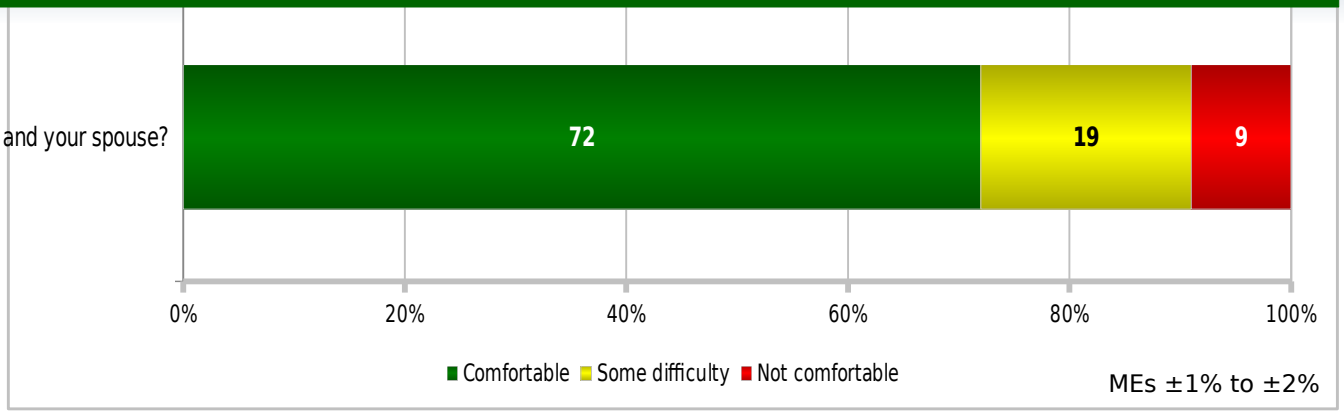
BRIEFING OVERVIEW

		Slide
•	Introduction	3
•	Spouse Employment	6
•	Overall Satisfaction and Support	12
✓	Financial Health	17
•	Personal Relationships	22
•	Impact of Deployments	27
•	Summary of Results	38

Financial Condition

Percent of All Active Duty Spouses

Overall, "comfortable" financial condition in 2015: significantly higher than 2006/2008/2012



Comfortable

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	63	62	64	72
Army	62	58	60	69
Navy	61	60	65	71
Marine Corps	57	59	61	69
Air Force	66	70	73	78

MEs ±1%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	63	62	64	72
E1-E4	45	45	48	59
E5-E9	61	61	63	69
O1-O3	83	83	87	90
O4-O6	89	89	92	92

MEs ±1%

In 2015, highest percentages of Air Force spouses "comfortable"

In 2015, highest percentages of Army spouses "not comfortable"

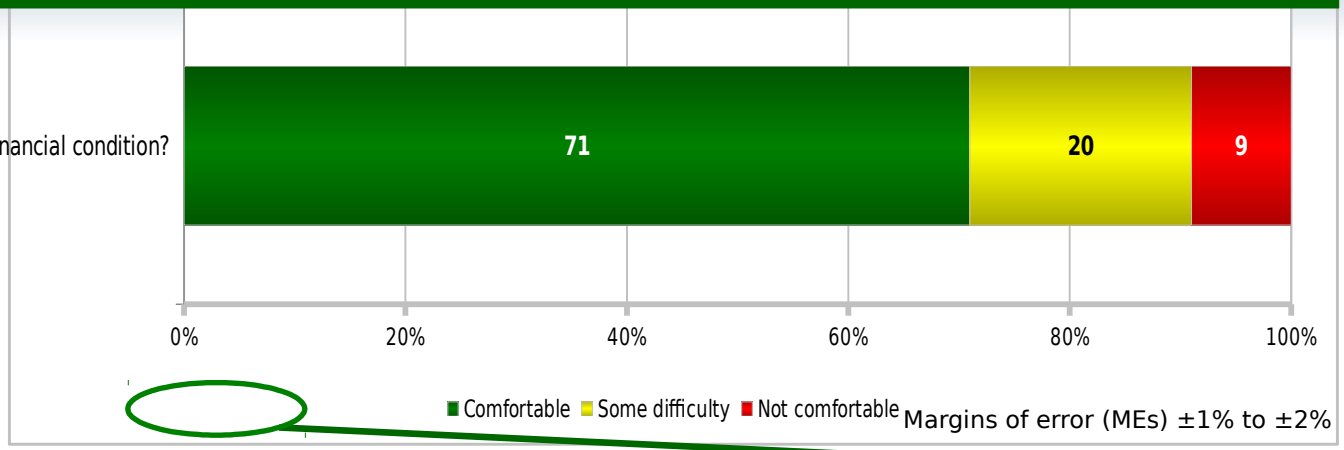
ADSS 2015 Q122

Financial Condition

Percent of All Active Duty Members

Overall, "comfortable" financial condition in 2014: significantly higher than condition since 1999 except Jun 2012

Which best describes your (and/or your spouse's) financial condition?



Margins of error (MEs) ±1% to ±2%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	1999	Jul 02	Mar 03	Apr 04	Mar 05	Apr 06	Apr 07	Apr 08	Apr 09	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	Jun 12	2013	2014
Total	52	52	62	57	66	63	67	61	67	65	63	68	63	69	67	71
Army	48	52	59	55	63	60	63	57	64	61	58	63	60	65	64	69
Navy	54	50	65	56	66	64	67	62	68	66	66	70	64	69	66	69
Marine Corps	50	45	57	52	60	57	63	59	64	60	59	65	59	68	64	68
Air Force	55	58	66	63	73	67	73	67	74	74	73	74	72	76	74	77

MEs ±1% to ±5%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	1999	Jul 02	Mar 03	Apr 04	Mar 05	Apr 06	Apr 07	Apr 08	Apr 09	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	Jun 12	2013	2014
Total	52	52	62	57	66	63	67	61	67	65	63	68	63	69	67	71
E1-E4	44	39	51	46	56	53	58	54	58	56	55	59	57	62	59	65
E5-E9	50	53	64	57	67	62	66	59	68	65	62	67	60	68	65	68
O1-O3	77	79	85	83	87	86	88	83	88	86	87	89	85	89	89	90
O4-O6	83	87	91	86	91	89	89	83	89	89	87	89	87	90	88	90

MEs ±1% to ±3%

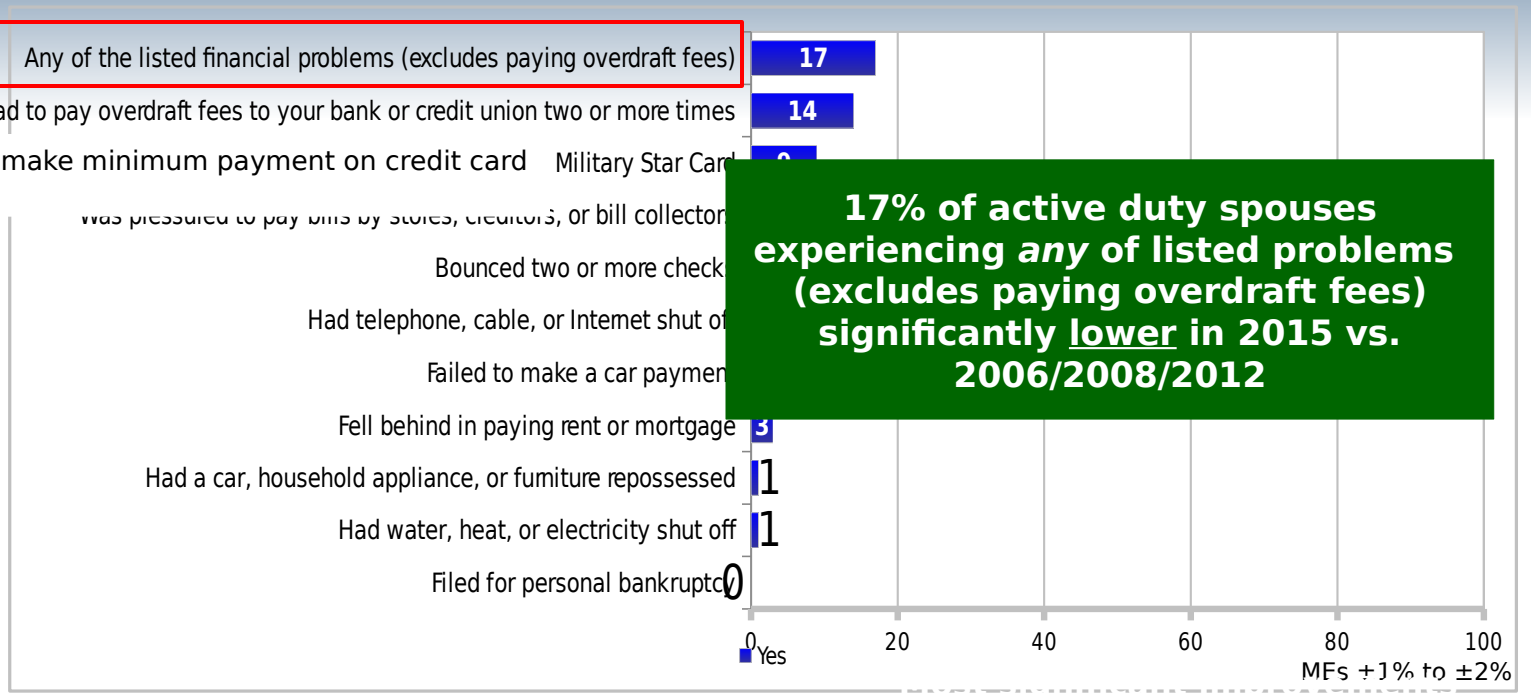
SOFS-A 2014 Q66

Among Services in 2014, highest percentages of Air Force members "comfortable" and

Army members "not comfortable"

Financial Problems in Past 12 Months

Percent of All Active Duty Spouses


Any of the listed financial problems (excludes paying overdraft fees)
17
Had to pay overdraft fees to your bank or credit union two or more times
14
Failed to make minimum payment on credit card
Military Star Card
Was pressured to pay bills by stores, creditors, or bill collector
Bounced two or more check
Had telephone, cable, or Internet shut of
Failed to make a car paymen
Fell behind in paying rent or mortgage
3
Had a car, household appliance, or furniture repossessed
1
Had water, heat, or electricity shut off
1
Filed for personal bankruptcy
0
0
20
40
60
80
100
Yes
MEs ±1% to ±2%

Fai account

17% of active duty spouses experiencing *any* of listed problems (excludes paying overdraft fees) significantly lower in 2015 vs. 2006/2008/2012

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	28	26	22	17
Army	31	31	27	19
Navy	29	26	20	19
Marine Corps	33	31	23	20
Air Force	20	18	13	10

MEs ±1%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	28	26	22	17
E1-E4	48	43	34	26
E5-E9	27	25	21	18
O1-O3	9	11	6	5
O4-O6	6	6	4	4

MEs ±1%

(2015 vs. prior)

Financial problems for…

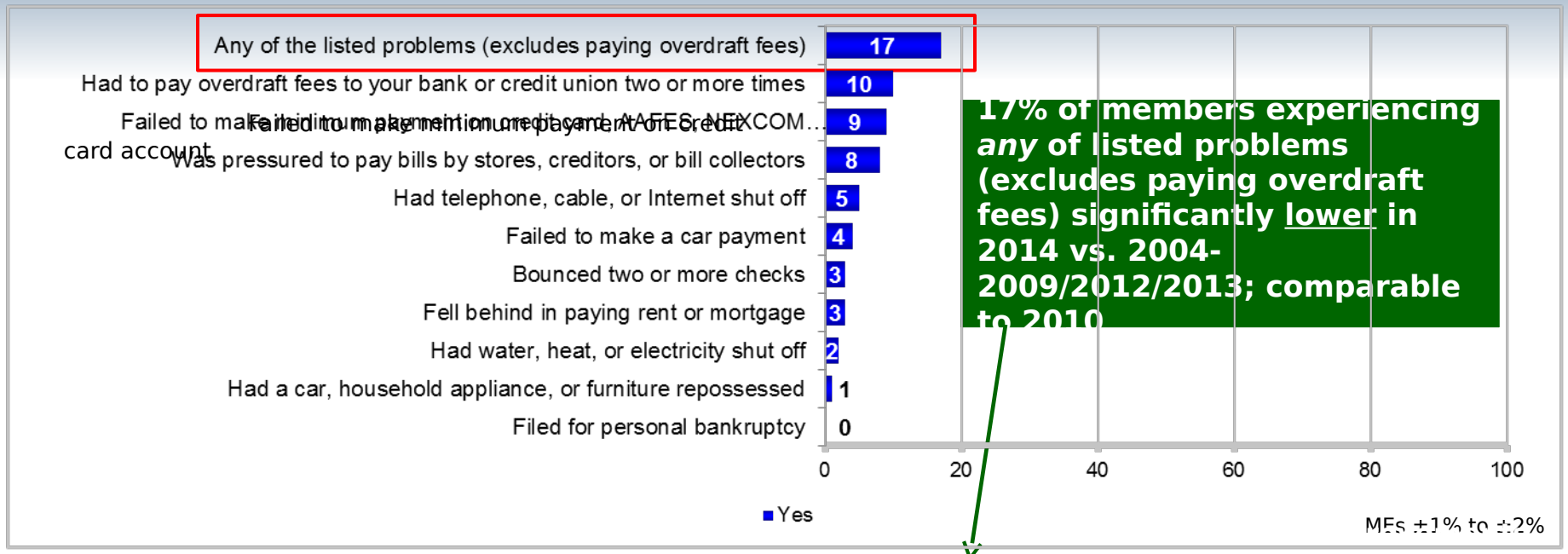
- **Marine Corps** — **11-13 percentage points**
- **Army** — **8-12 percentage points**
- **E1-E4** — **8-22 percentage points**
- **E5-E9** — **3-9 percentage points**

enlisted,
Navy enlisted, and Marine Corps enlisted members' spouses experienced
***any* of the listed financial problems (excludes paying overdraft**

ADSS 2015 Q123

Financial Problems in Past 12 Months

Percent of All Active Duty Members



17% of members experiencing *any* of listed problems (excludes paying overdraft fees) significantly lower in 2014 vs. 2004-2009/2012/2013; comparable to 2010

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Apr 04	Mar 05	Apr 06	Apr 07	Apr 08	Apr 09	Jun 10	Feb 12	2013	2014
Total	28	29	24	26	27	30	19	22	19	17
Army	33	36	28	31	32	34	24	25	23	20
Navy	29	29	21	27	26	29	18	21	20	18
Marine Corps	32	33	27	30	33	36	20	26	20	15
Air Force	20	20	19	17	19	21	12	16	13	11

MEs ±1% to

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Apr 04	Mar 05	Apr 06	Apr 07	Apr 08	Apr 09	Jun 10	Feb 12	2013	2014
Total	28	29	24	26	27	30	19	22	19	17
E1-E4	40	40	33	35	37	40	26	28	24	20
E5-E9	26	27	22	25	26	28	19	23	21	19
O1-O3	9	11	6	10	8	11	5	7	6	6
O4-O6	4	7	5	6	6	7	4	5	6	5

MEs ±1% to ±3%

(2014 vs. prior)

Financial problems for…

- **Marine Corps** — **11-21 percentage points**
- **Army** — **5-16 percentage points**
- **E1-E4** — **6-20 percentage points**
- **E5-E9** — **4-9 percentage points**

SOFS-A 2014 Q65

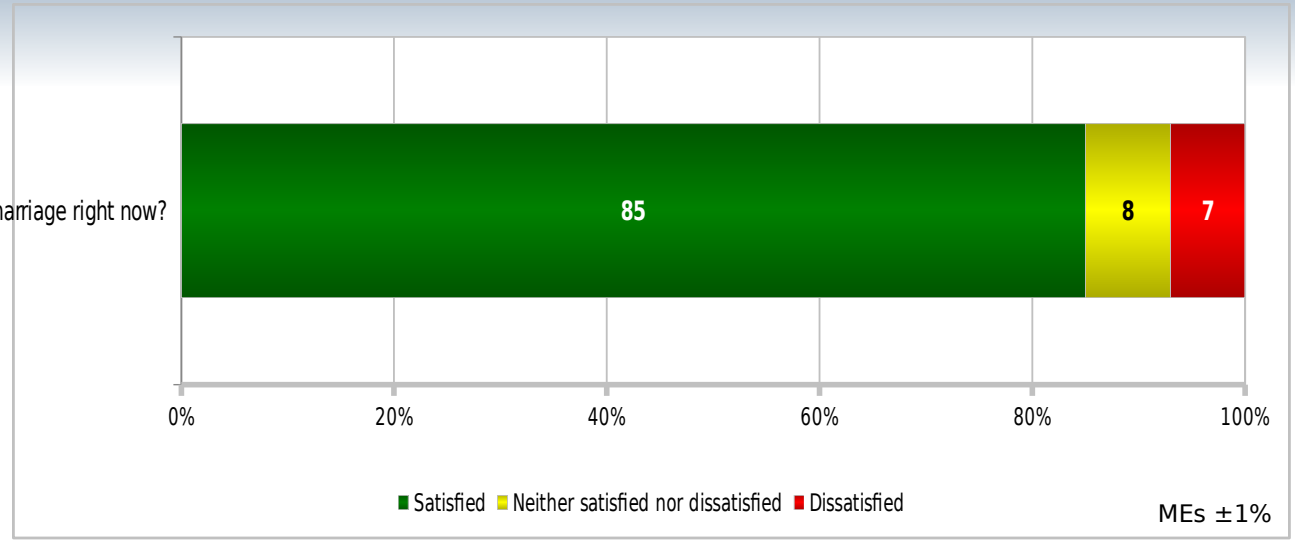
BRIEFING OVERVIEW

		Slide
•	Introduction	3
•	Spouse Employment	6
•	Overall Satisfaction and Support	12
•	Financial Health	17
✓	Personal Relationships	22
•	Impact of Deployments	27
•	Summary of Results	38

Marital Satisfaction

Percent of All Active Duty Spouses

Taking things altogether, how satisfied are you with your marriage right now?



Satisfied

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	83	85
Army	81	83
Navy	83	86
Marine Corps	84	82
Air Force	87	87

MEs ±1% to ±3%

Satisfied

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	83	85
E1-E4	81	86
E5-E9	82	83
O1-O3	90	89
O4-O6	87	86

MEs ±1% to ±2%

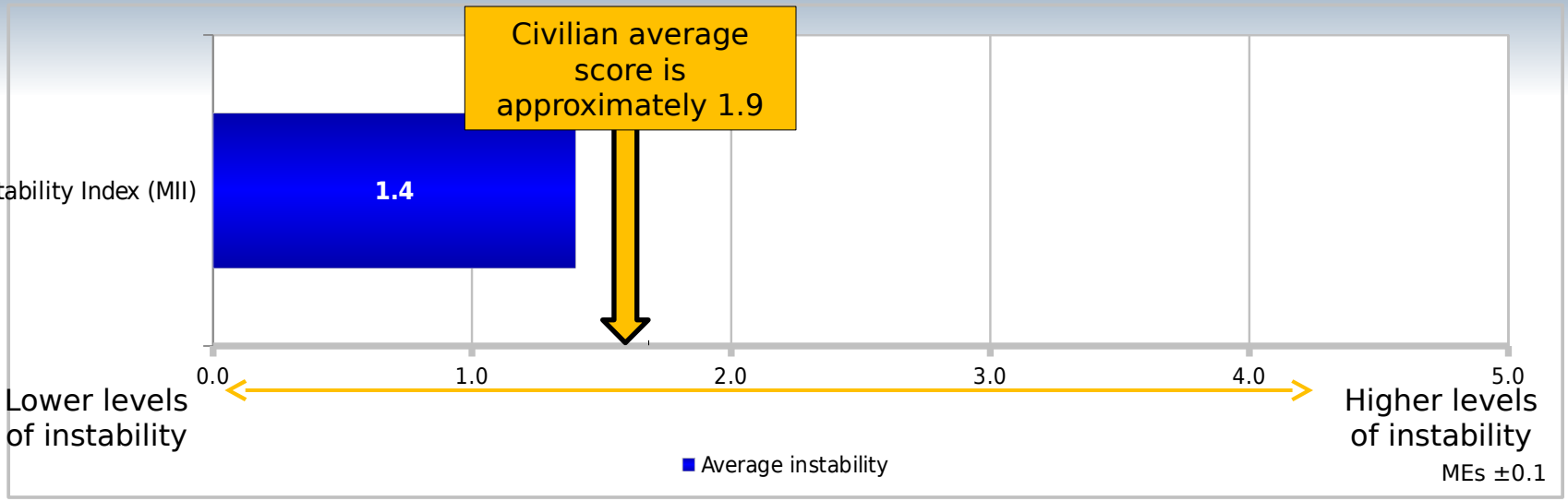
Higher response of *Satisfied* in 2015 – Air Force (87%); O1-O3 (89%); Not in Labor Force (87%)

Higher response of *Dissatisfied* in 2015 – Army (8%); E5-E9 (8%); Employed (8%)

ADSS 2015 Q81

Marital Instability Index (MII)

Average of All Active Duty Spouses



Note: Each item on the MII is scored 0 = No and 1 = Yes (5 items). Overall MII scores are reported as a single figure, which is the sum of the scores across all 5 items (range = 0-5). A higher total score indicates higher levels of instability in the marriage. Civilian average is based on married graduate students (mean = 1.81) and 76 middle class married couples under the age of 55 (mean = 1.89) in Kardatzke, K. N. (2009). *Perceived stress, adult attachment, dyadic coping and marital satisfaction of counseling graduate students* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC. [Reference: Conger, R. D., Elder, G. H., Lorenz, F. O., Conger, K. J., Simons, R. L., Whitbeck, L. B. et al. (1990). Linking economic hardship to marital quality and instability. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 52,* 643-656.]

Instability

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	1.6	1.4
Army	1.7	1.5
Navy	1.5	1.2
Marine Corps	1.6	1.4
Air Force	1.4	1.2

MEs ±0.1 to ±0.2

Instability

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	1.6	1.4
E1-E4	1.7	1.3
E5-E9	1.7	1.5
O1-O3	1.1	1.0
O4-O6	1.1	1.1

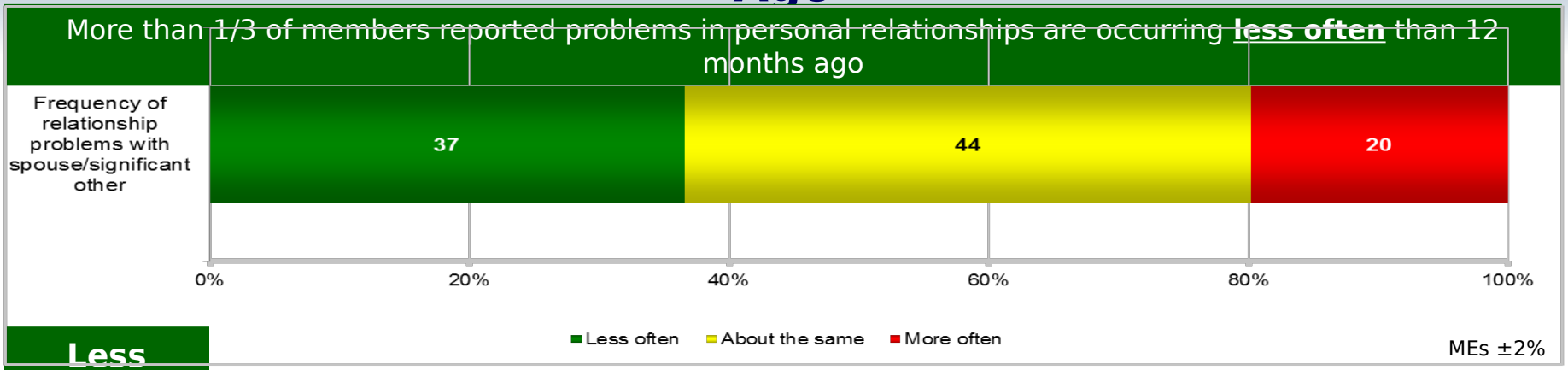
MEs ±0.1

ADSS 2015 Q82

Higher than average levels of *Instability* in 2015 – Army (1.5); E5-E9 (1.5); Employed (1.5)

Problems in Personal Relationships Compared to 12 Months Ago

More than 1/3 of members reported problems in personal relationships are occurring **less often** than 12 months ago



Less often

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Mar 05	Apr 07	Apr 09	Feb 12	2013
Total	24	27	26	36	37
Army	23	27	25	37	39
Navy	25	26	25	35	36
Marine Corps	24	27	28	38	34
Air Force	23	27	28	35	34

MEs ±2% to ±6%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Mar 05	Apr 07	Apr 09	Feb 12	2013
Total	24	27	26	36	37
E1-E4	22	31	28	41	39
E5-E9	26	27	28	37	39
O1-O3	19	22	20	27	29
O4-O6	18	17	20	28	25

MEs ±2% to ±5%

In 2013, highest percentages of Army enlisted members (42%) reported having problems *less often*, while highest percentages of Navy enlisted members (25%) reported having problems *more often*

2013 results for Total, all Services, and all paygrade groups comparable to 2012 results

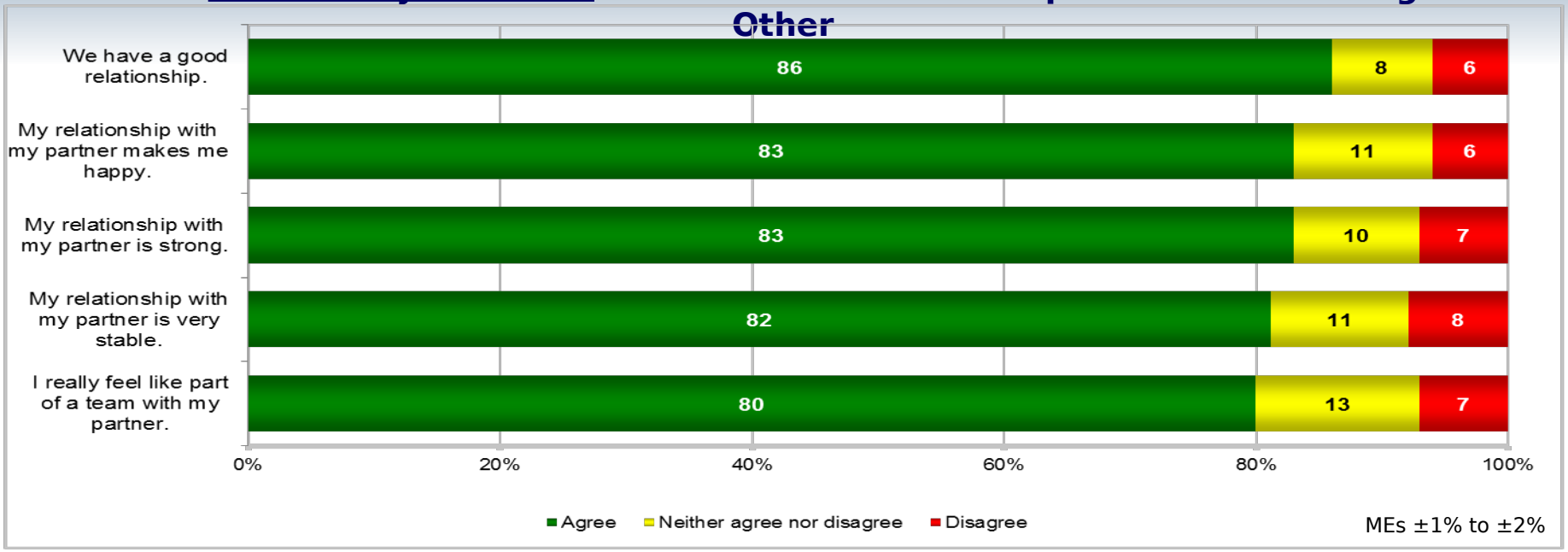
Most significant improvement (problems less often) – Army members (12-16 percentage points better in 2013 vs. 2005-2009)

Among paygrade groups, E1-E4 members reported most significant improvement in 2013 (17 percentage points higher) vs. 2005

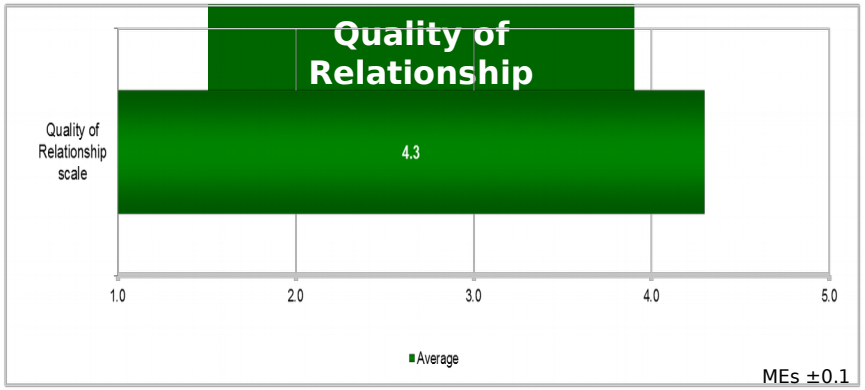
SOFS-A 2013 Q91, Q92

Relationship with Spouse/Significant Other

Percent of Active Duty Members Who Were Married or Separated or Had a Significant Other



MEs ±1% to ±2%



MEs ±0.1

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Mar 05	Apr 07	Apr 09	Feb 12	2013
Total	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
Army	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3
Navy	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3
Marine Corps	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
Air Force	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4

MEs ±0.1 to ±0.2

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Mar 05	Apr 07	Apr 09	Feb 12	2013
Total	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
E1-E4	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3
E5-E9	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2
O1-O3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4
O4-O6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4

MEs ±0.1

SOFS-A 2013 Q93

No significant differences in Quality of Relationship for Total and Services in 2013 vs. 2005-2012

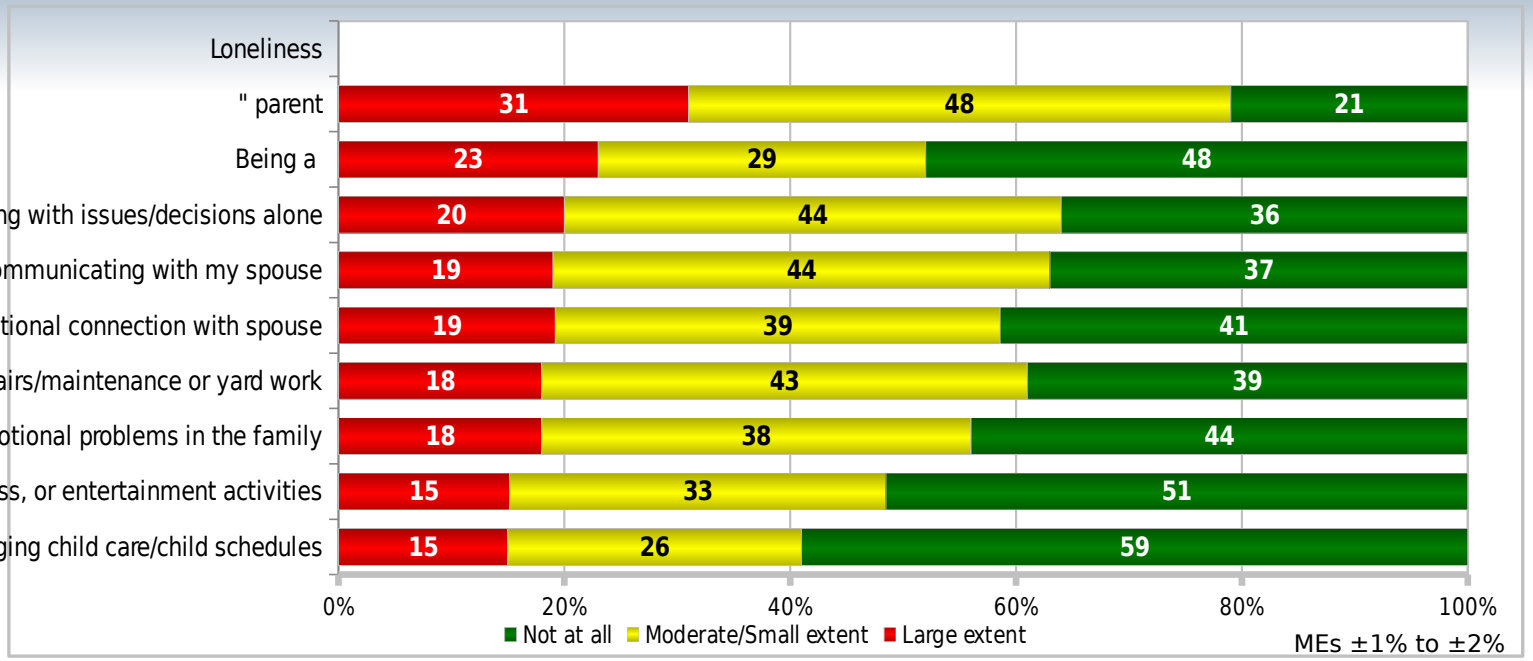
BRIEFING OVERVIEW

Slide

- Introduction 3
- Spouse Employment 6
- Overall Satisfaction and Support 12
- Financial Health 17
- Personal Relationships 22
- ✓ Impact of Deployments 27
- Summary of Results 38

Problems During Most Recent Deployment

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Whose Husband/Wife Had Been Deployed



Large Extent

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Loneliness	54	47	38	31
Being a "single" parent		32	26	23
Dealing with issues/decisions alone			24	20
Technical difficulties communicating with my spouse		22	24	19
Difficulty maintaining emotional connection with spouse		25	24	19
Home/care repairs/maintenance or yard work	34	29	22	18
Emotional problems in the family	20	18	22	18
No time for recreation, fitness, or entertainment activities		23	20	15
Managing child care/child schedules	28	23	17	15

MEs ±1% to ±12%

Note: The response options were not the same across the surveys which may account for some of the differences across years.

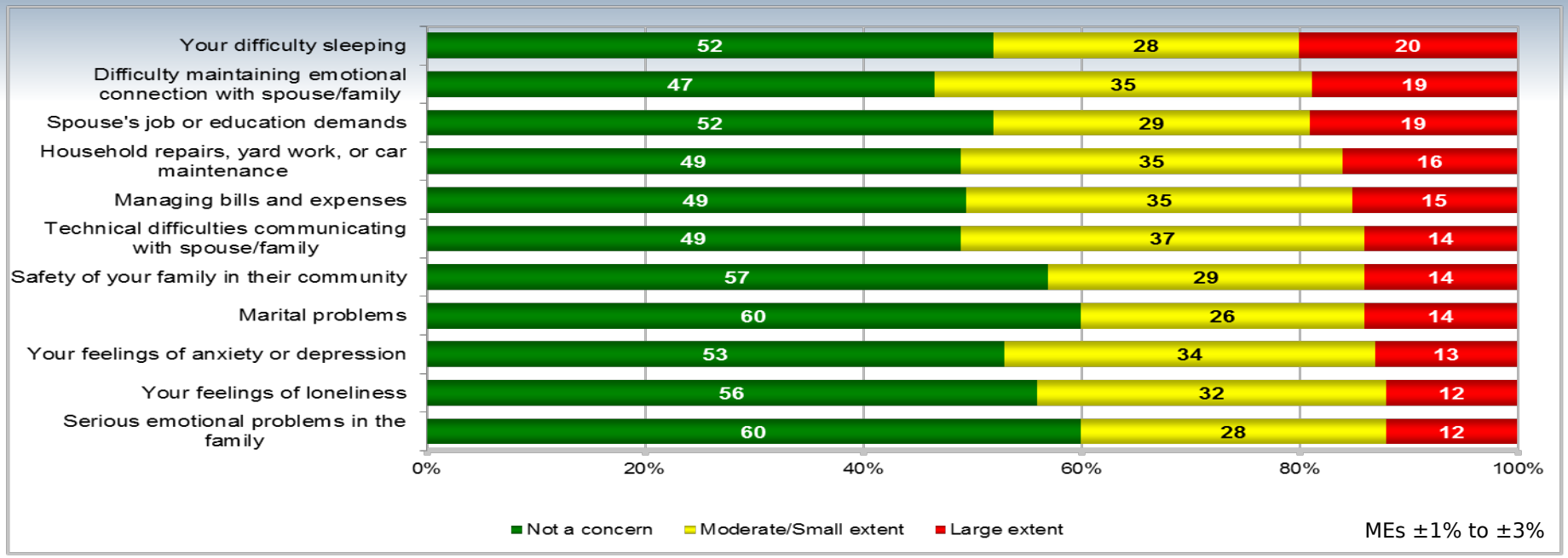
- *Loneliness* – Navy (34%); E1-E4 (43%); Unemployed (39%)
- *Being a "single" parent* – No differences for Service, paygrade, or employment status
- *Dealing with issues/decisions alone* – Navy (23%); E1-E4 (25%); Unemployed (25%)
- *Technical difficulties communicating w/ spouse* – Navy (24%); E1-E4 (28%); Employed (21%)
- *Difficulty maintaining emotional connection w/ spouse* – Army (21%)
- *Emotional problems in family* – E1-E4 (22%); E5-E9 (19%); Unemployed (25%)
- *Managing child care/child schedules* – E5-E9 (16%); Employed

ADSS 2015 Q104

In 2015, improvements in extent of each listed problem during most recent deployment

Concerns While Away During Most Recent Deployment

Percent of Applicable Active Duty Members Deployed Since 9-11-01



Large Extent

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Dec 09	Jan 11	Feb 12	2013
Your difficulty sleeping	26	27	22	20
Difficulty maintaining emotional connection with spouse/family	22	20	19	19
Spouse's job or education demands	23	20	18	19
Household repairs, yard work, or car maintenance	18	16	15	16
Managing bills and expenses	20	17	15	15
Technical difficulties communicating with spouse/family	17	17	16	14
Safety of your family in their community	18	15	13	14
Marital problems	19	18	15	14
Your feelings of anxiety or depression	16	17	13	13
Your feelings of loneliness	18	17	13	12
Serious emotional problems in the family	17	16	13	12

Improvements in percentages of members reporting 9 of 11 concerns in 2013 vs. 2009/2011

Most significant improvement in *difficulty sleeping* (6-7 percentage points lower in 2013)

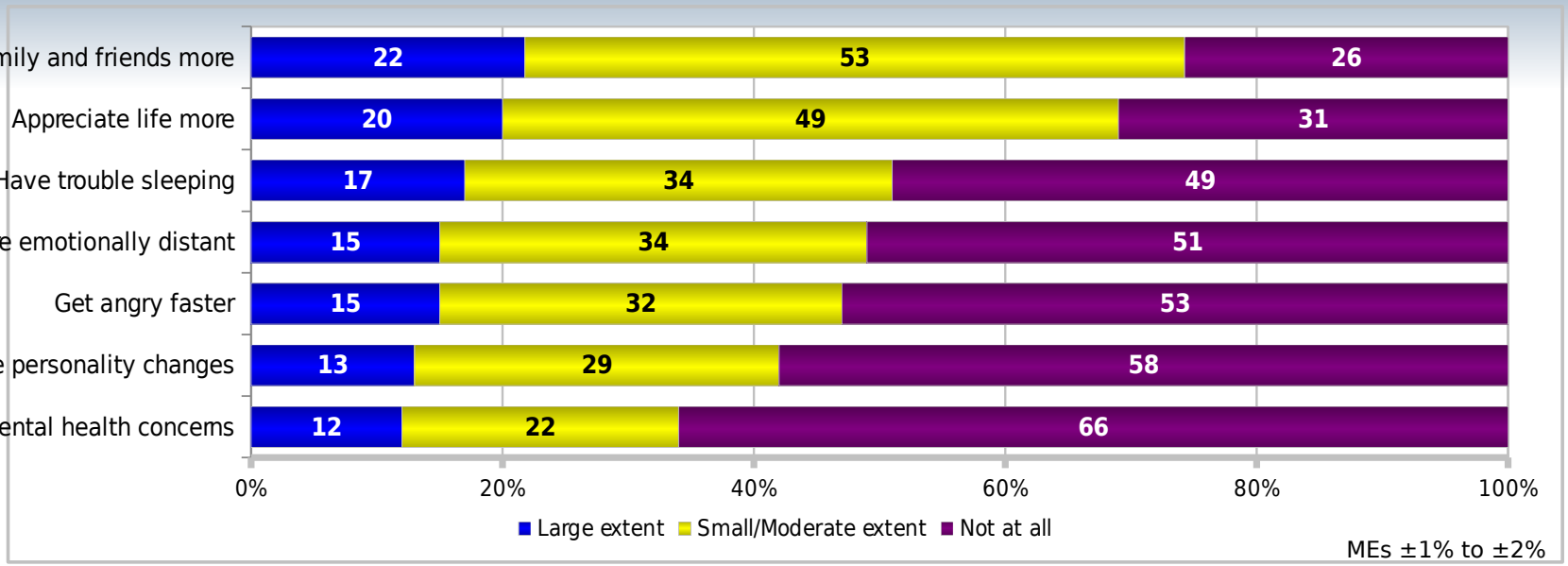
In 2013, Army enlisted members reported higher response of large extent for *difficulty sleeping* (27%), *managing bills and expenses* (18%), *technical difficulties communicating with spouse/ family* (18%), and *feelings of anxiety/depression* (17%)

SOFS-A 2013 Q161

MEs ±1% to ±3%

Changes in Husband/Wife After Return Home

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Whose Husband/Wife Returned From Deployment



Large Extent

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	20[illegible]	[illegible]
Appreciate family and friends more	47	43	25	22
Appreciate life more	43	38	23	20
Have trouble sleeping		28	21	17
More emotionally distant	24	25	18	15
Get angry faster	26	29	20	15
Show negative personality changes			15	13
Have mental health concerns			14	12

Note: The response options were not the same across the surveys which may account for some of the differences across years.

MEs ±1% to ±15%

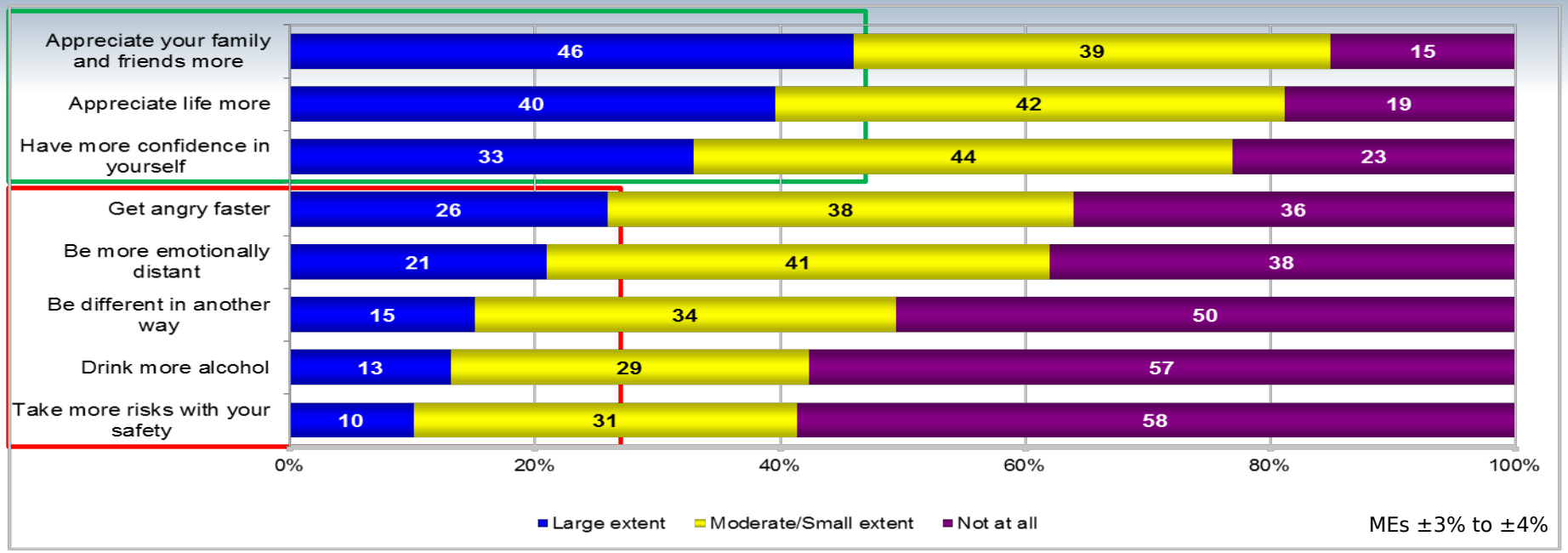
ADSS 2015 Q114

- *Appreciate family and friends more* – Army (24%); E1-E4 (28%); Not in Labor Force (25%)
- *Appreciate life more* – Army (23%); Not in Labor Force (23%)

- *Have trouble sleeping* – Army (24%); E5-E9 (20%); Employed (19%)
- *More emotionally distant* – Army (21%); E1-E4 (20%); Employed (17%)
- *Get angry faster* – Army (23%); E1-E4 (20%); E5-E9 (17%)
- *Show negative personality changes* – Army (18%); E5-E9 (14%); Employed (16%)
- *Have mental health concerns* – Army (19%); E5-E9 (14%)

Emotional/Behavioral Changes After Deployment

Percent of Active Duty Members Deployed in Past 24 Months but Not Currently Deployed



Note: "Be different in another way" responses include appreciate Service members more, be less social, get too little sleep, focus more on physical fitness, be more social, be tired or have less energy, appreciate things previously taken for granted, and be more stressed or hypervigilant.

Large Extent

Most recent HIGHER / Most recent LOWER than	05	06	07	Dec 07	Nov 08	Dec 09	Jan 11	Feb 12	2013
Appreciate your family and friends more	64	54	51	51	47	47	45	44	46
Appreciate life more	53	44	41	41	37	37	38	36	40
Have more confidence in yourself	34	39	34	36	31	33	32	30	33
Get angry faster	29	30	29	30	27	26	26	23	26
Be more emotionally distant	28	26	24	25	23	21	22	23	21
Be different in another way	21	23	21	21	19	18	18	16	15
Drink more alcohol	19	17	16	17	15	14	13	12	13
Take more risks with your safety	16	17	15	16	12	13	12	10	10

Percent reporting positive emotional/ behavioral changes significantly lower in 2013 than 2005/2006 but comparable to 2007-2012

Improvements in 4 of 5 negative emotional/behavioral changes in 2013 vs. 2005-2007

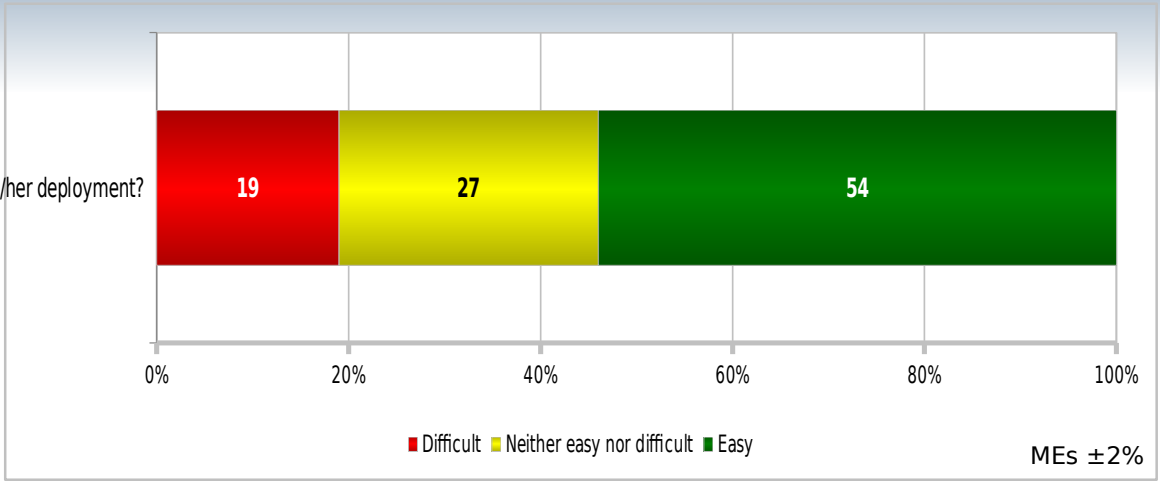
SOFS-A 2013 Q162

MEs ±2% to ±4%

Spouse's Readjustment to Member's Return From Deployment

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Whose Husband/Wife Returned From Deployment

How would you describe your readjustment to having your spouse home after his/her deployment?



MEs ±2%

Higher response of *Easy* in 2015 – Air Force (62%); Not in Labor Force (58%)

Higher response of *Difficult* in 2015 – Army (22%); Employed (21%)

Difficult

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	23	28	21	19
Army	29	33	25	22
Navy	20	24	18	18
Marine Corps	25	28	18	17
Air Force	15	24	17	15

MEs ±1% to ±6%

Difficult

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2006	2008	2012	2015
Total	23	28	21	19
E1-E4	30	33	23	18
E5-E9	22	28	22	19
O1-O3	21	22	17	18
O4-O6	15	18	17	19

MEs ±1% to ±5%

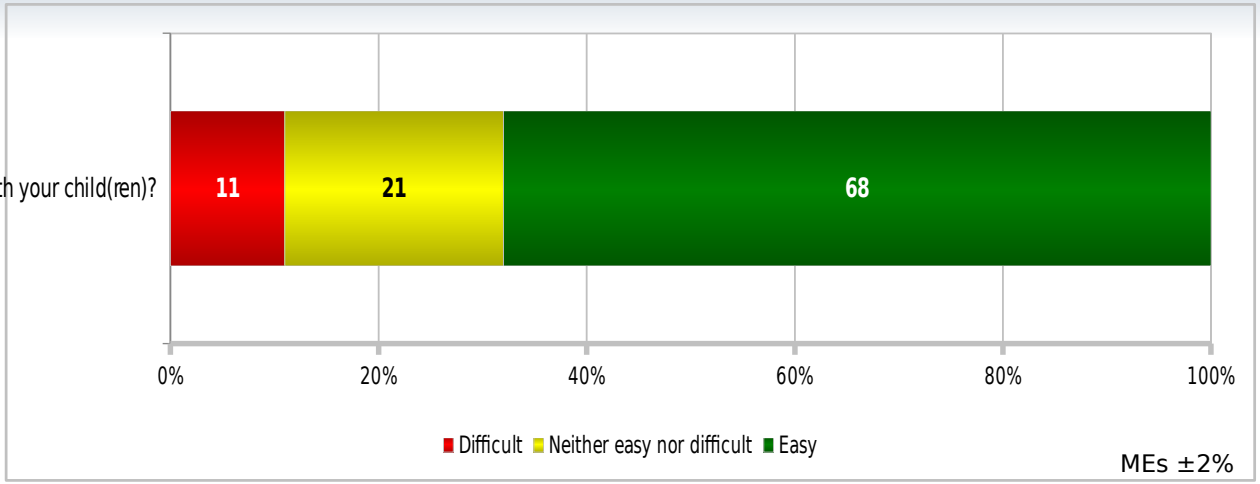
Most significant decreases (improvements) in *difficult* readjustments for spouses of Army and Marine Corps members (both 11 percentage points lower in 2015 vs. 2008) and E1-E4 members (15 percentage points lower in 2015 vs. 2008)

ADSS 2015 Q116

Member's Reconnection With Child(ren) After Deployment

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Who Had Child(ren) During the Member's Most Recent Deployment and Whose Husband/Wife Returned From Deployment

Which of the following describes your spouse's reconnection with your child(ren)?



Higher response of *Easy* in 2015 – Air Force (77%)

Higher response of *Difficult* in 2015 – Army (14%); Employed (13%)

Difficult

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	13	11
Army	15	14
Navy	11	9
Marine Corps	12	12
Air Force	10	8

MEs ±1% to ±3%

Difficult

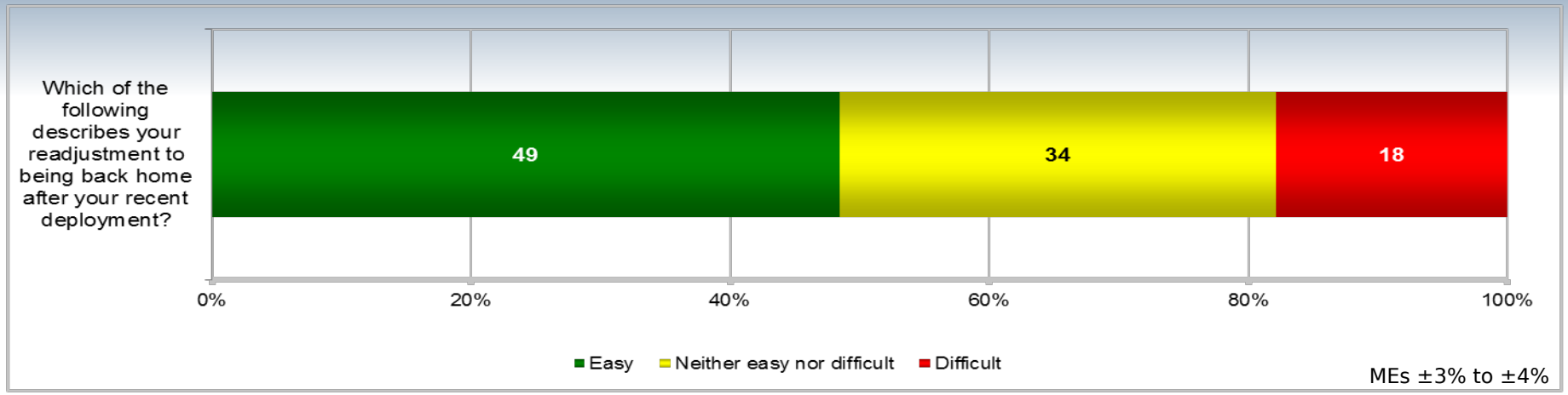
Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Total	13	11
E1-E4	16	14
E5-E9	13	11
O1-O3	11	11
O4-O6	7	10

MEs ±1% to ±5%

ADSS 2015 Q115

Degree of Difficulty in Readjusting to Return Home

Percent of Active Duty Members Deployed in Past 24 Months but Not Currently Deployed



Difficult

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Apr 06	Apr 07	Dec 07	Nov 08	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	2013
Total	19	18	20	21	20	16	20	18	18
Army	26	25	29	28	23	19	25	21	20
Navy	14	15	17	18	22	20	22	16	20
Marine Corps	17	16	17	19	18	13	17	16	18
Air Force	13	12	12	13	12	11	10	15	12

MEs ±2% to ±11%

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Apr 06	Apr 07	Dec 07	Nov 08	Dec 09	Jun 10	Jan 11	Feb 12	2013
Total	19	18	20	21	20	16	20	18	18
E1-E4	21	19	20	22	22	17	23	18	18
E5-E9	19	19	23	21	20	17	20	20	19
O1-O3	12	12	12	16	16	14	15	13	10
O4-O6	12	11	13	14	16	14	13	15	13

MEs ±2% to ±7%

No significant differences in *difficult* readjustment to being back home in 2013 vs. 2006-2012 *except* Army members (9 percentage points lower in 2013 vs. Dec 2007)

In 2013, highest percentages of Air Force members reported *easy* readjustment

while lowest percentages of Army members reported *easy* readjustment (43%)

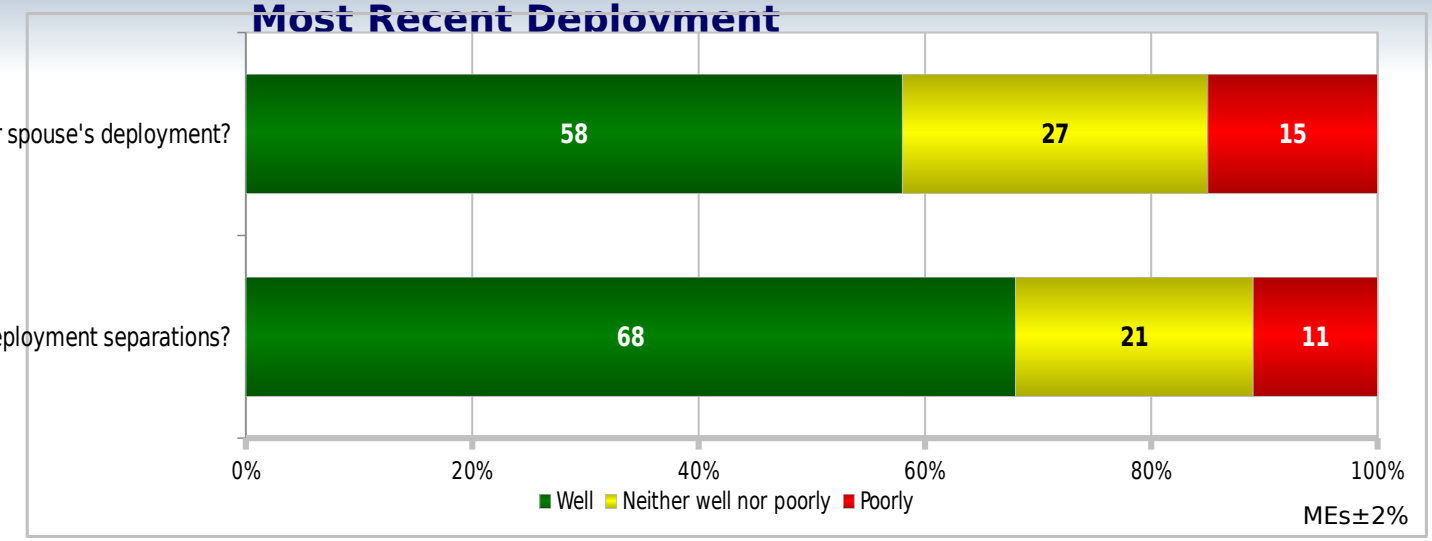
In 2013, 19% of Enlisted members reported a *difficult* readjustment

compared to 13% of Officers who reported a *difficult* readjustment

SOFS-A 2013 Q166

"How well did this child..."

Percent of Active Duty Spouses Who Selected a Child Living at Home During Husband/Wife's Most Recent Deployment



Poorly

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	2012	2015
Cope with your spouse's deployment	13	15
Stay connected to your spouse given deployment separations	14	11

MEs ±2% to ±8%

Higher response of *Well*

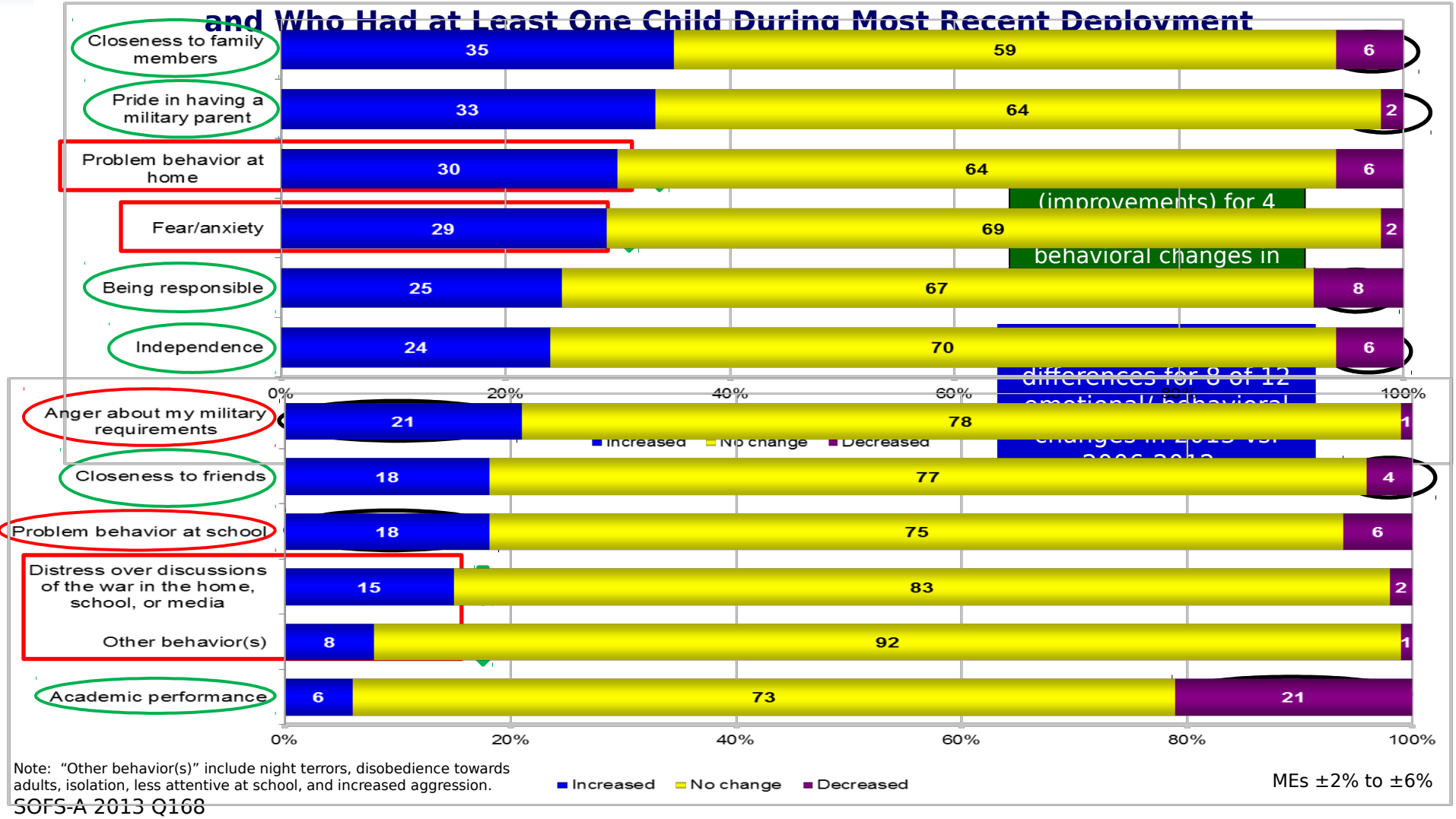
- *Coped with your spouse's deployment* – O4-O6 (65%)
- *Stayed connected to your spouse given deployment separations* – Air Force (73%)

Higher response of *Poorly*

- *Coped with your spouse's deployment* – No differences for Service, paygrade, or employment status
- *Stayed connected to your spouse given deployment separations* – Navy (17%)

Children's Emotional/Behavioral Changes in Response to Deployment

Percent of Active Duty Members Deployed in Past 24 Months but Not Currently Deployed and Who Had at Least One Child During Most Recent Deployment



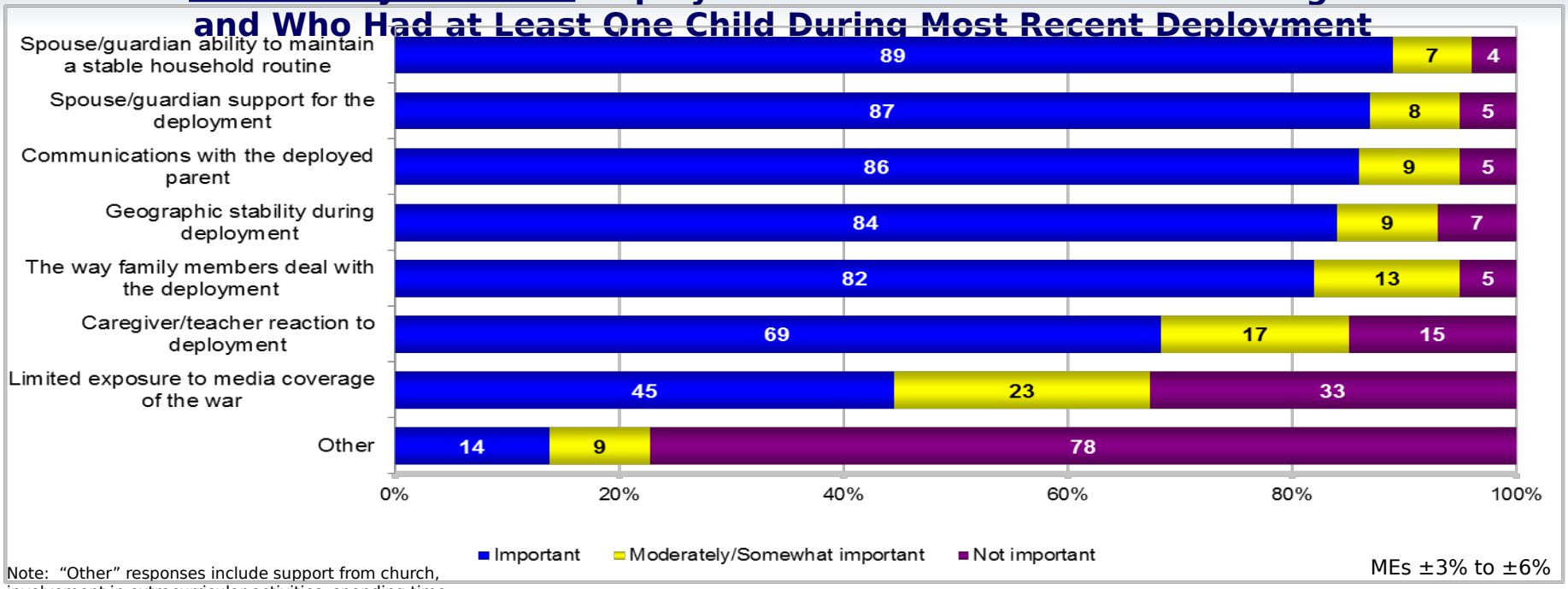
Note: "Other behavior(s)" include night terrors, disobedience towards adults, isolation, less attentive at school, and increased aggression.

MEs ±2% to ±6%

SOFS-A 2013 Q168

Importance of Factors for Children in Coping With Deployments

Percent of Active Duty Members Deployed Since 9-11-01 With Children Age 22 or Under and Who Had at Least One Child During Most Recent Deployment



MEs ±3% to ±6%

Note: "Other" responses include support from church, involvement in extracurricular activities, spending time with other family members, providing children with member's definite return date, having defined family roles, and member taking mid-tour leave.

Important

Most recent HIGHER than / Most recent LOWER than	Apr 06	Apr 07	Dec 07	Nov 08	Dec 09	Jan 11	Feb 12	2013
Spouse/guardian ability to maintain a stable household routine	83	84	84	83	88	84	85	89
Spouse/guardian support for the deployment	81	82	81	81	86	83	82	87
Communications with the deployed parent	83	83	82	83	87	85	85	86
Geographic stability during deployment	77	78	78	78	82	79	78	84
The way family members deal with the deployment	79	80	80	78	83	78	78	82
Caregiver/teacher reaction to deployment	63	63	64	63	68	63	64	69
Limited exposure to media coverage of the war	49	50	47	46	48	48	44	45
Other	21	19	19	21	19	21	18	14

MEs ±2% to ±6%

No significant differences in importance of factors in 2013 vs. 2006-2012

Army enlisted members in 2013 reported higher percentages of importance for *caregiver/ teacher reaction to deployment* (78%) and *limited exposure to media coverage of war* (55%)

SOFS-A 2013 Q169

BRIEFING OVERVIEW

Slide

- Introduction 3
- Spouse Employment 6
- Overall Satisfaction and Support 12
- Financial Health 17
- Personal Relationships 22
- Impact of Deployments 27
- ✓ Summary of Results 38

Summary of Results

- **Spouse unemployment rate lower* in 2015 vs. 2010 (MFLP) but higher vs. 2006/2008**
- **About two-thirds of active duty (AD) spouses (2015) and AD members (2014) satisfied with military way of life overall – spouse satisfaction higher than 2006/2008; member satisfaction generally steady from 2002-2014**
- **Almost three-quarters of AD spouses and AD members reported "comfortable" financial condition – higher than 2006-2012 (AD spouse) and 1999-Feb 2012/2013 (AD member)**
- **85% of AD spouses satisfied with their marriage in 2015; marital instability index lower in 2015 (indicating more stability) than in 2012**
- **Problems in AD members' personal relationships occurring less often than 12 months ago – improvement in frequency in 2013 vs. 2005-2009 and comparable to 2012**
- **Problems experienced by AD spouses during their husband's/wife's most recent deployment and AD members' positive and negative changes**

Bottom Line: **Overall satisfaction, financial condition, and marital satisfaction generally improved for AD spouses and AD members compared to previous results. Lower percentages of AD spouses and AD members experienced problems during and after deployments than in previous years.**

* Only statistically significant findings are reported. Statistical tests are used to compare current estimates with other subgroups and previous results based on unrounded estimates.

Questions?

Contact information

Dr. Paul Rosenfeld: Division Director, DMDC-RSSC, paul.rosenfeld.civ@mail.mil
Ms. Carol Newell: Branch Chief, DMDC-RSSC, carol.e.newell2.civ@mail.mil
Ms. Malikah Dorvil: Survey Analyst, DMDC-RSSC, malikah.j.dorvil.civ@mail.mil
Ms. Kimberly Williams: Survey Analyst, DMDC-RSSC, kimberly.g.williams6.civ@mail.mil
Dr. Cathy Flynn: Senior Program Analyst, MC&FP, cathy.a.flynn.civ@mail.mil

DMDC Website (https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_surveys.jsp)